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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 246

OCTOBER, 1963

Industrial Employment Exceeds 180,000 for First Time

Non-farm employment in Montana continues to set new records. Estimated industrial employment in Montana at mid-September was 182,200 wage earners. Revised estimates based on more complete records hiked the June employment figure to 182,900, the July total to 182,300, and the August figure to 181,800. For the first time of record non-farm employment in Montana passed the 180,000 mark. These latest figures point up the fact that Montana's economic growth, although not spectacular, has been sure and steady. Favorable weather, excellent yields of farm crops, a continuing growing construction agenda, good volume of main street business, uptrends in lumbering and mining, all weave into a healthy pattern of labor market activity during Montana's Indian summer.

A Trend Reversed

Traditionally employment in Montana always reached its highest peak during the month of August. Seasonal declines always caused employment to drop from August to September. This year tradition was ignored as September employment climbed 400 over the August total. An over-the-year gain of 3,600 wage earners was also recorded over September of last year. September employment this year exceeded the average September employment of the past 10 years by 9,300 wage earners.

Seasonal Declines Below Normal

Some normal seasonal declines were evident in a few industries during September but these were outweighed by

increased hiring in others. The seasonal change was most marked in trade industries as employment dropped 1,000 from August. The end of the tourist season and closure of some facilities at national parks and resort areas were the chief factors responsible for this decline. Other industry groups fared better. Contract construction continued to be a most active force on the labor market scene. Construction payrolls, at 16,200, were up 300 from August and 1,000 higher than September of last year. Government employment advanced by 1,000 from August as a gain of 2,000 at state and local levels overpowered a seasonal drop of 1,000 in federal employment. This increase was chiefly at the state's educational facilities. An over-the-year increase of 2,600 in government employment is shown with 300 at the federal level and 2,300 at state and local units. Trends in manufacturing were mixed. Employment in the non-durable goods group was up by 400 from August but a deficit of 100 is shown in the durable goods group. Most of the gain was in food processing. Total manufacturing employment, at 23,100, remained unchanged from last year. The service industry groups chalked up a gain of 100 over both last month and last year.

Three Down 100 Each

Over the month declines of 100 each occurred in mining, transportation, utilities and communications, and finance, insurance, and real estate. Employment in all these industries was up moderately from September a year ago.

Active Seasonal Factors

This is the time of the year when sugar beets, potatoes, and Christmas trees make about 3,000 additional seasonal jobs. Sugar beet refineries at Billings, Hardin, Sidney, and Missoula will operate for season runs of from 60 to 120 days. The Christmas tree harvest is now underway in the northwestern section of the state; about 1,000 workers will be employed in the harvest and manufacturing activities. The potato harvest also now underway is providing good yields throughout different regions of the state.

A Special Week—Oct. 6-12

Once a year the nation observes "Hire the Handicapped" week. It is a time to reflect that it is ability not disability that counts. Experience has proven that the handicapped worker is an efficient, dependable, safe, and loyal employee. During the fiscal year 1963, local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 2,178 handicapped workers in jobs throughout the state.

Insured Unemployment Drops

Insured unemployment in Montana at 1.9 per cent was among the lowest in the nation. The national average was 3 per cent. Unemployment claims continued to drop seasonally during September and recorded the lowest total of the year for the week ending October 4th with 2,674 claims.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	1) Aug. 1963	2) July 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. 1963	July 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. 1963	July 1963	Aug. 1962	Aug. 1963	July 1963	Aug. 1962
All Manufacturing.....	5.7	4.1	4.8	4.5	3.2	3.9	6.3	4.0	*8.1	3.8	1.6	3.5
Durable Goods.....	6.7	4.7	5.5	5.4	3.6	4.3	7.4	4.9	*9.8	5.0	1.7	4.3
Primary Metal.....	5.4	4.7	3.4	.9	.4	.3	6.5	6.3	*14.3	1.2	.4	2.4
Nondurable Goods.....	3.7	2.6	3.2	2.6	2.2	2.8	3.9	2.0	4.3	1.4	1.2	1.8
All Mining.....	8.8	7.2	6.3	5.1	4.0	3.2	8.4	7.5	*12.1	5.6	3.5	4.1
Metal Mining.....	7.6	7.2	5.5	3.3	2.3	1.0	6.9	6.8	*17.0	4.8	3.8	3.2

*High separation rates (1962) in Mining and Primary Metal Industries are due to secondary effects of Teamsters' Strike with Anaconda Company. The secondary effects of this strike are also reflected in the separation rates for "All Manufacturing" and "durable goods."

Along the Hiring Line—**Field Summary September 1**

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(275 jobseekers, 145 new, 154 men, 121 women). Full employment maintained on most outdoor projects with favorable weather conditions. Public works hiring for forest service projects accounted for nearly half of Sept. job placements. Railroad hiring up as track repair crews expanded. Smelter construction at 1,950, down 200 from mid-July; layoffs of 100 workers per month expected to Jan. 64.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,786 jobseekers, 878 new, 1,043 men, 743 women). Employment in industry and agriculture keeps at high seasonal levels. Construction on good schedule as work progresses on Yellowtail Dam, 11 major highway projects, oil refinery expansion and pipeline, new federal building, and several public works projects, among others. Moderate upswing noted in labor demand for main street establishments; some shortages of clerical workers developed during the month. End of sweet corn harvest and canning idled 170 plant workers and 60 Indians who worked the fields. Start of sugar beet refining on Sept. 25 made 1,100 jobs at Billings and Hardin.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(216 jobseekers, 239 new, 88 men, 128 women). Good employment upswing occurred in construction and trade industries during Sept. Construction employment shows 65% increase over last year. Trends in manufacturing remain stable with very little new hiring. Job orders for some service workers go begging due to lack of applicant interest. More machines on the farm front caused a 20% drop in farm labor demand from last year.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(856 jobseekers, 409 new, 433 men, 423 women). Metal mines hiring continues as new ore concentrator plant prepares to go into full production. Construction employment drop seasonally as some projects near completion. Trade and service volume hold to good trends. Opening of new shopping center made more new jobs. Farm labor demand at near standstill.

CUT BANK—(152 jobseekers, 60 new, 99 men, 53 women). Industry job hiring exceeded last year by 100% due chiefly to presence of public works projects in area and increased construction. Peak employment of 400 expected in these activities. Main street hiring at steady pace and comparable to last year. Farm labor demand fairly good.

DILLON—(52 jobseekers, 67 new, 27

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	Sept. 1963	Aug. 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. Avg. 1954-63
Industrial Employment	182,200	181,800	178,600	172,900
New Job Applicants	4,437	3,840	3,893	3,657
Job Applicants, End of Month	8,335	8,768	7,138	6,589
Insured Unemployment Week of	Oct. 4 1963	Sept. 6 1963	Oct. 5 1962	Avg. 1st Oct. Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	479	517	495	796
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,195	2,325	1,998	3,002
Total Unemployed Claims	2,674	2,842	2,493	3,798

men, 25 women). A variety of agricultural activities dominated the Sept. labor market. The potato harvest began, shipment of cattle and lambs kept stockmen busy, irrigation, summer fallowing, etc. kept others occupied. Labor supply adequate to meet present demands. Area construction work continues at a good clip.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(142 jobseekers, 62 new, 35 men, 107 women). Area employment trends reflect optimism on both the industry and farm fronts. Over 300 employed in construction including air base projects, highway work, etc. Increased business at trade and service units reflects the results of good farm crops this year. Heavy farm labor demand throughout the month.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(98 jobseekers, 75 new, 41 men, 57 women). Labor demand fairly active in farm and industry during Sept. New shopping center in final stages of completion. One road project to start soon. Oil field activity steady but with little new hiring. Sugar beet harvest to be in full swing by Oct. 1.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Standford—(1,722 jobseekers, 724 new, 948 men, 774 women). New applications for work reached the highest level in four years as seasonal layoffs continued in most industries. Hiring by trade and service establishments as replacements for students returning to schools constituted most of the Sept. hiring activity. Employment at missile installations down to 120 compared to 3,300 last year when construction was in progress. Manufacturing trends remain firm but with a few cutbacks.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(127 jobseekers, 68 new, 64 men, 63 women). Labor demand during Sept. was strongest in construction, logging, and trade and service industries. Work began on a \$105,000 school at Victor, new homes, and commercial remodeling projects. Hiring also began on several public works projects totaling \$165,000. Farm labor demand chiefly for hay hands and potato pickers.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(120 jobseekers, 82 new, 79 men, 41 women).

Hiring increased from last month due chiefly to increased demand for construction workers. New public work projects now just starting at two Indian reservations will employ 100. Trade and service trends not too active with only replacement hiring expected during the next 30 days.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(336 jobseekers, 224 new, 208 men, 128 women). Labor demand in trade industries rose sharply for staffing of various units of new shopping center. Activity relatively quiet in other industry segments with exception of lumbering where shortages of fallers continues. Farm labor demand fairly constant with adequate supply of workers.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(582 jobseekers, 333 new, 370 men, 212 women). Area economy shows good improvement with high levels of employment in construction, lumbering, and trade industries. Shortages of sawmill and woods workers existed. Brisk hiring noted at major Libby lumber mill. Expansion of aluminum plant facilities at Columbia Falls began, employing 15. Some decline noted in service industries as tourist traffic lessens.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(136 jobseekers, 103 new, 73 men, 63 women). Employment trends in industry and farm starting to decline in line with seasonal factors. Fairly active construction program in progress but very little new hiring. Economic outlook pales when compared with last year's high missile site construction activity, but rates favorably with other years prior to that time.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(129 jobseekers, 52 new, 52 men, 77 women). Construction still a big part of the labor market picture despite some completed projects. Logging slowed somewhat during the month by wet weather. Trade and service employment adjusting to normal after tourist season. Very little railroad hiring. Farm hiring slowed considerably.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(167 jobseekers, 114 new, 87 men, 80 women). Economic

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.4	175.7	182.9	182.3	181.8	182.2*				

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary September 1

outlook appears favorable for next 2 months, sparked by good farm crops and prevalence of construction projects. Labor market situation compares favorably with last year despite less construction work this year.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,006 jobseekers, 512 new, 684 men, 322 women). Employment now at peak in most major industries with steady trends expected to continue with favorable weather. Nearly \$22 million in highway, commercial and residential construction, currently in progress. Hiring in trade industries surpassed past years as new trade units opened. Declining tourist traffic caused some lay-off of service workers. Opening of sugar beet refinery on Sept. 30 will employ 400 for 3 months.

POLSON—(157 jobseekers, 52 new, 97 men, 60 women). Increased hiring over last year chiefly as the result of public work projects in area. Good trends hold in lumber industry with all mills operating at capacity. Only light construction activity. Farm labor demand quiet.

SHELBY—(96 jobseekers, 65 new, 55 men, 41 women). Job hiring shows moderate increase over last month and last year with continuing highway projects the major factor. Stable trends in trade, service, and oil field activities prevailed throughout the month. Farm labor demand at normal pace.

SIDNEY—(60 jobseekers, 76 new, 22 men, 38 women). Sept. labor demand spread over most industry groups highlighted by the start of sugar beet harvest and refining. Ten workers hired for opening of new retail store mid-October. Construction hiring also active. Main farm activities include sugar beet and potato harvests.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(53 jobseekers, 34 new, 34 men, 19 women). Some seasonal employment declines in evidence but labor market picture remains fairly active. Several new public works projects on schedule. Work continues on smaller building projects. Practically no farm labor demand.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(67 jobseekers, 63 new, 41 men, 26 women). Mixed trends dominated the Sept. labor market. Construction employment climbed to a seasonal peak but declines occurred in trade, oil fields, and agriculture. Some upswing expected in oil oriented activities during Oct.

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1962 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 870 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,294 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Sept. 1963 (2)	Aug. 1963 (3)	Sept. 1962	Aug. '63 to Sept. '63	Sept. '62 to Sept. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	182,200	181,800	178,600	400	3,600
Manufacturing	23,100	22,800	23,100	300	00
Durable goods	14,800	14,900	15,500	-100	-700
Lumber and timber products	9,600	9,500	8,600	100	1,000
Primary metals	3,200	3,200	3,400	00	-200
Other (4)	2,000	2,200	3,500	-200	-1,500
Nondurable goods	8,300	7,900	7,600	400	700
Food and kindred products	4,800	4,400	4,300	400	500
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,700	00	-100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,000	00	200
Other (5)	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	6,900	7,000	6,700	-100	200
Metal mining	4,000	4,000	3,500	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	1,000	800	-100	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,000	2,000	2,400	00	-400
Contract Construction	16,200	15,900	15,200	300	1,000
Contractors, building construction	4,800	4,800	4,500	00	300
Contractors, other than building	6,200	5,900	5,600	300	600
Contractors, special trade	5,200	5,200	5,100	00	100
Transportation and utilities	18,500	18,600	18,400	-100	100
Interstate railroads	8,100	8,300	8,200	-200	-100
Transportation except railroads	4,400	4,300	4,100	100	300
Utilities including communication	6,000	6,000	6,100	00	-100
Trade	41,300	42,300	41,800	-1,000	-500
Wholesale trade	8,400	8,600	8,800	-200	-400
Retail trade	32,900	33,700	33,000	-800	-100
General merchandise and apparel	6,300	6,200	6,100	100	200
Food stores	4,900	5,000	5,200	-100	-300
Eating and drinking establishments	9,000	9,600	8,700	-600	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,600	6,800	6,700	-200	-100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,100	6,100	6,300	00	-200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	7,000	6,800	-100	100
Services and miscellaneous	25,300	25,200	25,200	100	100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,500	4,500	4,100	00	400
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	18,700	18,600	19,000	100	-300
Government	44,000	43,000	41,400	1,000	2,600
Federal	12,600	13,600	12,300	-1,000	300
State and local	31,400	29,400	29,100	2,000	2,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,600	23,600	24,900	00	-1,300
Manufacturing	3,200	3,400	4,900	-200	-1,700
Contract construction	2,900	2,600	3,100	300	-200
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,200	2,200	-100	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,100	6,100	5,600	00	500
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	4,000	3,800	00	200
Government	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,800	23,500	23,500	300	300
Manufacturing	2,800	2,500	2,600	300	200
Contract construction	1,800	1,800	1,700	00	100
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,600	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,200	7,200	7,400	00	-200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,300	4,400	4,200	-100	100
Government	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER 1963 AND SEPTEMBER 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Sept. 1963		Sept. 1962		Sept. 1963		Sept. 1962		Sept. 1963				Sept. 1962				Wk 10-4	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1963	1962
Anaconda	145	24	52	5	275	26	221	33	127	54	181	54	125	68	193	80	153	142
Billings	878	166	660	134	1,786	333	1,605	294	708	964	1,672	264	651	829	1,480	200	385	445
Bozeman	239	41	217	23	216	23	206	28	248	101	349	56	223	126	349	62	64	39
Butte	409	69	144	25	856	120	1,126	261	164	1	165	42	75	5	80	16	306	447
Cut Bank	60	15	112	39	152	33	188	46	150	72	231	88	40	94	134	61	37	46
Dillon	67	23	50	13	52	5	79	22	63	110	173	76	90	91	181	74	17	50
Glasgow	62	6	133	23	142	7	220	15	141	57	198	56	104	55	159	36	30	73
Glendive	75	9	56	5	98	9	98	9	58	69	127	21	88	42	130	33	18	20
Great Falls	724	113	693	124	1,722	324	908	211	257	193	450	118	546	238	784	213	674	281
Hamilton	68	9	59	5	127	20	92	12	86	116	202	20	120	61	181	17	57	28
Havre	82	10	101	18	120	29	130	22	115	90	205	67	102	76	178	60	57	50
Helena	224	31	224	45	336	61	323	49	237	64	301	83	260	40	300	85	152	96
Kalispell	333	58	242	55	582	93	521	100	225	45	270	64	193	27	220	64	231	228
Lewistown	103	17	119	26	136	22	80	13	99	63	162	42	187	135	322	90	64	43
Livingston	52	5	56	5	129	20	102	11	135	17	152	38	107	45	152	36	48	51
Miles City	114	7	103	7	167	12	95	12	97	27	124	11	95	64	159	48	43	38
Missoula	512	70	592	118	1,006	159	684	132	403	88	491	142	378	127	505	122	175	232
Polson	52	10	63	8	157	35	137	29	93	7	100	19	41	24	65	9	58	73
Shelby	65	16	78	19	96	20	159	47	67	41	108	21	64	54	118	26	22	34
Sidney	76	10	57	5	60	8	31	—	125	83	208	54	118	68	186	62	20	7
Thomp. Falls	34	12	45	4	53	8	78	15	42	—	42	13	41	1	42	8	33	32
Wolf Point	63	28	37	7	67	13	55	11	27	69	96	27	34	93	127	31	30	38
TOTALS	4,437	747	3,893	711	8,335	1,378	7,138	1,372	3,676	2,331	6,007	1,376	3,682	2,363	6,045	1,431	2,674	2,493

*Includes 174 claims of the Fed. UC Program 176 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. (1) 1963	Aug. (2) 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. (1) 1963	Aug. (2) 1963	Sept. 1962	Sept. (1) 1963	Aug. (2) 1963	Sept. 1962
All Manufacturing	\$ 97.72	\$101.23	\$106.75	36.6	38.2	40.9	2.67	2.65	2.61
Durable Goods	95.16	98.30	109.30	36.6	38.1	42.2	2.60	2.58	2.59
Primary Metals	110.70	108.40	103.48	40.7	40.0	39.8	2.72	2.71	2.60
Nondurable Goods	104.81	108.19	101.19	37.3	38.5	37.9	2.81	2.81	2.67
Food and Kindred Products	84.94	88.78	84.26	36.3	38.6	38.3	2.34	2.30	2.20
All Mining	115.64	113.70	107.98	41.9	41.8	39.7	2.76	2.72	2.72
Metal Mining	112.29	112.29	100.75	39.4	39.4	35.6	2.85	2.85	2.83
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	104.80	108.36	101.89	39.4	41.2	39.8	2.66	2.63	2.56

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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